1500 Post Offices will be modernized (by improving ergonomics) and 10,000 rural Post Offices will be provided with infrastructure equipments under the modernization of operative systems plan scheme.

Mobile number portability

2552. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI has initiated the process of bringing in mobile number portability in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the complexities involved in the process; and

(d) by when the number portability would be applicable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MIINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. TRAI has issued a Consultation Paper on 'Mobile Number Portability' on 22nd July, 2005 to know the views of various stakeholders on the all issues involved in providing this facility to mobile users.

(c) The Consultation Paper discusses the various complexities involved in implementing mobile number portability such as technical solution (Off-switch/on-switch, Database Management, etc.) operational aspects, economic aspects [Cost associated with number portability (System set-up costs, Call conveyance costs, Administration costs), Cost allocation matters] of implemeting mobile number portability, adherence to National Numbering Plan, upgradation in existing networks, phased/National implementation, routing of NLD/ILD calls, tariff transparency, timing the introduction of number portability, technical issues in the portability of services such as SMS, data, fax etc.

(d) The Government is working towards introduction of number portability. However, the proposed measure is at initial stage. No time frame can be fixed for its introduction.